

Heterosexually transmitted HIV was most frequent in the 20-39 year age-group among black and white males, and in the 20-29 year age-group among females of both races.

Both males and females were approximately equally likely to be exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with an injecting drug user (25%-29%). Ten percent of females had been exposed to HIV through sexual contact with men who have sex with men. Three-quarters of males and three-fifths of females had been exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with a partner who was HIV-infected and whose risk was unidentified.

Results of the statewide seroprevalence surveys conducted by the TDH suggest an overall average HIV estimate among state prisoners of 1.3% and a range from 1% to 1.6%. Black male prisoners had the highest HIV prevalence, averaging 2.1% (or 2,100 per 100,000), with a range from 1.9% to 2.7%. Black male prisoners averaged about three times the HIV-positive prevalence of white male prisoners (0.7%, with a range from 0.4% to 1.0%). Black female prisoners had four times higher HIV prevalence than their white counterparts. Their prevalence was 1.6% and 0.4%, respectively. Small numbers, especially among black females, make these estimates unstable.

These prevalence estimates correspond to self-reported HIV/AIDS rate of 2% among arrestees -- both juveniles and adults from the 1995 Tennessee DUF/SANTA Arrestee Study conducted by the UTK CHRG. The results of these surveys indicate that prisoners engage in behaviors that put them at very high risk of HIV infection.

Between April 1989 and March 1995, 383,748 residual blood samples from metabolic screening of newborns were tested in Tennessee for the National Childbearing Women (CBW) Survey. Of these, 392 were found to be positive for HIV. This equates to a rate of 102 HIV-positive mothers per 100,000 samples. Assuming that 15% to 25% of the newborns of the HIV-positive mothers would themselves become HIV-positive, this translates into an estimated 59 to 98 children for the six-year period becoming infected due to maternal transmission of the virus.

Based on the results of six annual CBW surveys conducted in Tennessee, prevalence rates are consistently around 0.1% (100 per 100,000). The prevalence of HIV among black females (0.3% or 300 per 100,000) is estimated at 10 times higher on average than among white females (.03% or 30 per 100,000).

Shelby County, at 55% of cases, had the highest percentage of HIV seroprevalence of any region based on the CBW survey, followed by Davidson County at 19%. The seropositivity proportions in other regions ranged between 1% and 4% of the total. Comparing HIV prevalence by region, Shelby had a prevalence that was 2.6 times higher than the average for all regions. The HIV prevalence for Davidson and